

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with the missing parts for a new U.S. patent application based on priority of European patent application no. 02 019 619.2. Original claim 6 was dependent on claims 1-5; claims 11 and 12 were each dependent on claims 9 and 10; and claim 15 was dependent on claims 8-14. Claim 6 has been amended to depend solely on claim 1; claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend solely on claim 9; and claim 15 has been amended to dependent solely on claim 8.

There are now no multiple dependent claims in this application. The claims total 23; and the extra 3 claims were paid for when we filed the application on August 27, 2003.

It is believed that this application is now in better condition for examination and search.

Applicant hereby petitions that any and all extensions of the term necessary to make this response timely be granted. COSTS FOR SUCH EXTENSION(S) AND/OR ANY OTHER FEE DUE WITH THIS PAPER THAT ARE NOT FULLY COVERED BY AN ENCLOSED CHECK MAY BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT #10-0100.

Date: July 8, 2004

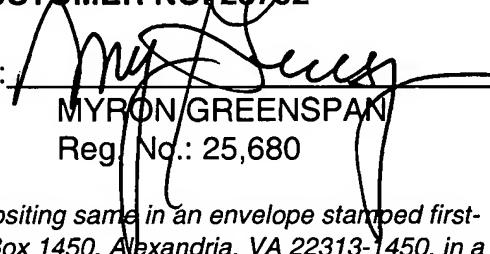
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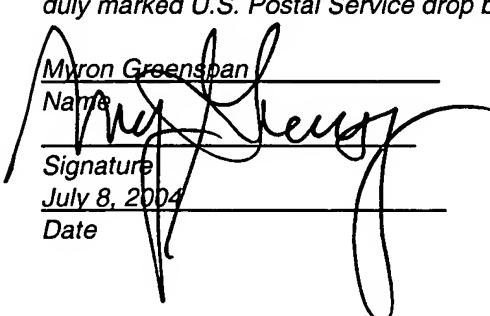
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed by depositing same in an envelope stamped first-class mail, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, in a duly marked U.S. Postal Service drop box, with appropriate postage, on the following date:


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